

[REDACTED]

25X1

Talking Points for DCI

Status of Cuban General Ochoa

Since late May, we have reports [REDACTED] that General Arnaldo Ochoa was sent to Nicaragua to take command of Cuban military advisory personnel there. In addition, he is probably advising and assisting the Sandinistas in their counterinsurgency efforts. Havana probably believes Ochoa's presence will reduce the risk of some rash military action against Honduras that might provoke US intervention. The posting of such an experienced and respected military leader [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would also pave the way for the smooth introduction of Cuban combat forces should Havana decide to send them.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Our latest information on Ochoa [REDACTED] is that he was heading a Cuban-Nicaraguan military delegation visiting the Middle East last week. Ochoa reportedly arrived in Damascus last Wednesday accompanied by an officer from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense and three other Cubans who allegedly are veterans of Cuba's African campaigns. Ochoa's itinerary was also to include Tripoli and Aden. We do not know the purpose of these visits, but they could be to solicit military support for the Sandinista regime's struggle against the insurgents.

25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

Page Denied